

Application No.: 10/092,726

Docket No.: 713-623

REMARKS

Reconsideration and allowance of the subject application in view of the foregoing amendments and the following remarks is respectfully requested. Entry of this Amendment under Rule 116 is merited as it raises no new issues and requires no further search.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter of claims 7-9, 17-18, 21, 27, and 30-36 is noted with appreciation.

Claims 3-9, 14-18, 21, 27, and 30-36 are pending in the application. Allowable claims 7, 9, 27, 30, 32, 34 and 35 have been rewritten in independent form including all limitations of the base claims and any intervening claims. Claim 3 has been amended to depend from allowable claim 7. Claim 3, and claims 4-6 and 14-16 depending therefrom, should therefore be considered allowable.

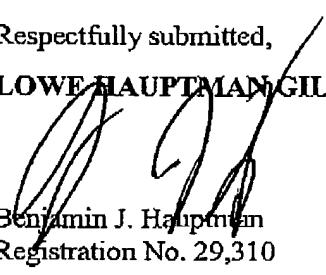
Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that all claims are now in condition suitable for allowance, and early indication of same is courteously solicited.

The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned, Applicant's attorney of record, to facilitate advancement of the present application.

Application No.: 10/092,726Docket No.: 713-623

To the extent necessary, a petition for an extension of time under 37 C.F.R. 1.136 is hereby made. Please charge any shortage in fees due in connection with the filing of this paper, including extension of time fees, to Deposit Account 07-1337 and please credit any excess fees to such deposit account.

Respectfully submitted,

LOWE HAUPTMAN GILMAN & BERNER, LLP
Benjamin J. Hauptman
Registration No. 29,310

USPTO Customer No. 22429
1700 Diagonal Road, Suite 310
Alexandria, VA 22314
(703) 684-1111 BJH/KL/kb
(703) 518-5499 Facsimile
Date: May 24, 2004

CERTIFICATION OF FACSIMILE TRANSMISSION
I HEREBY CERTIFY THAT THIS PAPER IS BEING FACSIMILE TRANSMITTED
TO THE PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE ON THE DATE SHOWN BELOW

Kindra Bryant
TYPE OR PRINT NAME OF PERSON SIGNING CERTIFICATION


SIGNATUREMay 24, 2004
DATE703-872-9306
FACSIMILE NUMBER